



Montréal Communiqué

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MUCH MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE: "The tip of the iceberg." That's the description given to the brief talks by a diversified group of individuals at the February 23rd rally of participants in the Montreal YMCA's financial campaign.

The group consisted of a journalist, a psychiatrist, spokesmen from Little Burgundy and Mile End West, an involved wife and mother, and a fitness program follower. Each related an example of how the Y had touched their lives.

SET TO GO: Final countdown is underway for the official start of the Y's city-wide drive for \$400,000. By blast-off time--on March 2nd--the total task force involved in the undertaking is expected to reach 2,000.

HOCKEY MARATHON: To help raise funds, relays of 50 young people--age 14-20--propose to play hockey for 60 hours, non-stop, in Verdun's Crawford Park. Face-off time is 4:00 p.m., Friday, February 27. Time on the ice will be underwritten by sponsors, with proceeds going to the Verdun-LaSalle division of the campaign.

WHERE'LL THE MONEY GO: Programs that help youngsters cope with and enjoy their formative years will be among the principal beneficiaries of the campaign.

In addition to Y gyms, pools, camps and club rooms, such activities are, increasingly, carried on in back alleys, school yards and public parks.

Whatever the milieu, the objective is multi-faced: firm up young muscles, teach sports skills, encourage initiative, give some understanding of responsibility and foster awareness.

DON'T WRITE OFF YOUTH: The current rift in adult-youth relationships could conceivably become a near impassable gulf which would further isolate chances for inter-generation co-operation.

Frustrated by apathy and aimlessness, angered by self-centred approaches and acts of destructiveness, irritated by the seeming unwillingness of young people to recognize that responsibility almost invariably accompanies privilege--some grown ups seem on the verge of abandoning part of the upcoming generation.

To forestall such a rejection, which would almost certainly work two ways, the Y consciously provides forums where differences can be searchingly examined, jointly, in an atmosphere of mutual trust.

STARTING YOUNG: Like most other children her age, crawling is 7-month-old Kimberley Zacabe's favorite means of locomotion. But, she has one big advantage over most other members of the diaper set. She can swim--sort of.

Since her enrollment in the N.D.G. YMCA's Kinder Program, Kimberley has learned to float on her back for up to 3 minutes at a stretch, and will fearlessly (and happily) emerge her face in the water.

This program was started last September for children under age two. It involves both Gym and Swim activities. Some 45 youngsters have participated in the program since it was started. The youngest of these was a 5-month old boy who was taught to float and enjoy putting his face in water.

THE DOCTOR APPROVES: Dr. Frank de N. Brent, Alcan's Director of Health Service, sat in on a recent fitness-testing clinic in Downtown YMCA. His comment; "Very impressive."

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